



## Interview Summary

Date	9/17/14	Time	8:48 – 9:15 AM
Interviewer	Carolyn McCall, EPA	Interviewee	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Other Attendees	Ray Strickland, EPA James Snow, EPA Anna Slaughter, EPA Julie Green, Toeroek	Contact Information	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
		Subject Property	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject	35th Avenue Superfund Site, Birmingham, Alabama		

With (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) permission, the interview conducted on September 17, 2014, at the EPA's Birmingham office was recorded. This represents a summary of the information Mr. (b) (6), shared with EPA. (b) (7)

Mr. (b) (6) currently lives at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (subject property) in the Collegeville Community. He has lived at this address for 60 years, since he was 2 years old. He owns the subject property, having received it through an inheritance. During the 60 years he has lived at the subject property, no industry has operated from it.

Mr. (b) (6) does not know who built the house. The house is approximately 100 years old. All the houses (b) (6) on his street are similar in appearance and the same age; Mr. (b) (6) believes that they were likely built by the same developer. (6)

Mr. (b) (6), stated that water sat in the back yard of the subject property in low areas. For this reason, his parents had fill material brought onto the subject property when he was young (9 to 12 years old) to build up the yard. He does not know where his parents got the dirt. He did say that at that time, people could get a truck and get dirt. Also, he recalled that somebody brought dirt into the neighborhood and offered it. His stepfather had some connections, which is likely how he got dirt for the yard. (b) (7)

Fill material has not been brought onto the property since that time. The yard is grassed over. His family did not have a vegetable garden and only grew flowers in the front yard.

According to Mr. (b) (6), water pooled in the low lying areas of the back yard, but the property never flooded. Flooding occurred around Maclin Park and on 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue beyond the scarp yards in the direction of Vanderbilt Road and the Flying J. Flooding also occurred on 34<sup>th</sup> Street because the railroad tracks sat higher than the street. He also noted that it used to flood near the New Bethel Church, which is located between 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Avenues as well as at the intersection of 27<sup>th</sup> and Shuttlesworth Avenues. Water at that intersection can be too deep to drive through so area residents find a way around it.

Mr. (b) (6), stated that flood waters smelled like creek water and sometimes had an oily sheen to it. The flood (b) (6) waters were semi-transparent and blue-green in color. He thought water might be running off of the old US Pipe Plant located in North Birmingham on 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue.



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Mr. (b) (6) worked in the foundry at US Pipe on 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue from (b) (6). He worked on the cement line, lining pipes with concrete. As the pipes were being lined, the excess concrete dripped off the pipes into a pan. Part of his job included keeping the pan clean and preventing concrete and water from building up. Once they were lined, Mr. (b) (6) was to stack them and ship them out.

Mr. (b) (6) described big piles of "stuff" on the north side of the yard along 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He stated that the piles were as high as two stories and had grass growing on them [note that Mr. (b) (6) is referencing the Walter Coke facility located at 3500 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue]. (b) (7)

While Mr. (b) (6) did not work on the casting line at US Pipe, he knew that the facility did not accumulate large piles of (b) (6) sand. According to him, the casting process at US Pipe produced the same amount of sand each time. The used sand was hauled off by trucks on a regular basis. Mr. (b) (6) does not recall US Pipe making fill material available to the public. (b) (7)

Mr. (b) (6) stated that there were times when water appeared to flow from the US Pipe facility on 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue (b) (6) towards Collegeville. He described the water as grayish colored and thick, akin to cement mixed with water. From his perspective, the water flowed from under the plant (via pipes so the flow was only partially underground), crossed the street into a creek, and turned left and flowed alongside the housing project along the back of the facility's fence. He believed that this event occurred as a sort of overflow system, when the plants in the area overloaded the sewer system.

Mr. (b) (6) stated that it was not common to see railroad cars carrying coal in Collegeville. In the past, he recalled seeing railroad cars transporting coal in and out of the back of the US Pipe facility, crossing 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Jim Walters facility. More common were railroad cars carrying steel pipes, scrap iron, and gravel. He stated that sometimes dump trucks were covered and sometimes they were not (b) (6)

He thought slag and coal found on residential properties might be attributed to coal dust collecting over a period of time. Soot covered his house; he could wipe the house with a rag and get soot off of it.

When he was a small boy, Mr. (b) (6) recalled hearing that people picked up coal from alongside the railroad tracks to heat their homes. As an adult, he has not seen or heard of anyone "hustling" coal. He has seen iron alongside the railroad tracks and stated that it was common knowledge that iron could be found near Gate 2 of the Walter Coke facility along Shuttlesworth Drive. (b) (6)

Mr. Echols did not recall ash getting on clothes hung outside to dry (he said he was too young) or black residue collecting on homes, windows, or porches. He did recall that soot collected on cars, but that it had improved, and that small black balls of ash accumulated in the area. There used to be a brown haze hanging over Tarrant City. In the area he grew up in, Mr. (b) (6) said that the air pollution was not as bad as in other areas of North Birmingham but just because he (b) (6) could not see it did not mean he could breathe.



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In addition to US Pipe, Mr. (b) [REDACTED] also worked at Birmingham Stove & Range from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] He referred to his job as "working miscellaneous". He primarily kept the sand used in the casting process shoveled off. The company made iron skillets, etc. He also worked for Dixie Bronze which manufactured machine parts. Dixie Bronze operated in a building connected to the back of the building Tri Fab Steel currently operates from. Tri Fab Steel is located at 2612 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, 35234.